

The editors welcome information from archives and survey organizations for insertion under this heading.

La rédaction recevra volontiers toute information qui pourrait faire l'objet d'une insertion dans cette rubrique.

BRAZIL

Establishment of a Center of Social and Political Data

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A Center of Social and Political Data, oriented towards problems of political development, is being created at the Department of Political Sciences of the University of Minas Gerais, Brazil. This Data Center is supposed to start operating at the beginning of 1968. Its structure and characteristics are being defined now, but a brief and provisional summary of its scope can be given already.

1. Purpose

The purpose of this Data Center will be to provide a data basis and a common empirical framework for the main bulk of research projects being carried on by or in connection with the Department. The research projects are those developed by the Department's Faculty, by its trainees now engaged in graduate work at different North American universities, as well as by the students of the regular graduate courses offered in Belo Horizonte. The Data Center is being thought of as integrated in a research coordination program now in progress, which is in itself a development from a broader program of expansion the Department is engaged in with the support of the Ford Foundation.

2. *Types of data*

The Center will be oriented mainly towards the creation of a basis of social and political aggregate data, having the Brazilian "municipios" (counties) as the units of analysis. Three types of data are being considered : a) socio-economic data, taken from the demographic, economic and educational censuses, among other sources ; b) electoral data ; c) government input and output data, at the municipal as well as state and national levels.

These data can be considered as basic for any empirical study of the Brazilian political structure and process, and have been produced, mainly after the 1930's, by different governmental and private agencies and institutions. It will be the purpose of the Center to obtain, evaluate, systematize and clean these data so that a common basis and support could be given for the different research projects. Besides, the Center will provide standards, facilitate the processing and incorporate other data being collected directly by the specific research projects.

3. *General scope*

The scope of the Data Center will be a function of the capacity of its users actually to absorb the data being produced and incorporated. As far as this absorption capacity grows, so other data will be sought for. The widening of the geographic basis, with the incorporation of Latin American data ; the diversification of the units of analysis, with the inclusion of survey data ; and the development of a section of historical documents are probable further stages of the development of the Data Center.

Besides its specific purpose, as an aid for actual research work carried on in connection with the Department, the Data Center will, of course, be open to and interested in establishing cooperation and interchange with other institutions and scholars.

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